



# ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT *ESPRIT*

Vol. 41 No. 05

[www.mvs.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil)

May 2002

## Flood Fight 2002



From the air it looks less serious than it does on the ground as the Mississippi River reaches 37.3 feet - some 7.3 feet above flood stage at St. Louis on May 17, 2002. This view from the KMOV-TV Skyzoom 4 helicopter, shows the famous landmark Arch, and the Eads Bridge in the foreground, near which the first floor of the city parking garage was flooded. Water also lapped on the steps of the grounds at the arch.

For many people in the St. Louis region the flood of 2002 seemed simply to go away over the Memorial Day weekend. The threat posed by the Mississippi rising to 37.3 feet – 7.3 feet above its flood stage at St. Louis – seemed to fade as muddy waters receded, a step at a time, from in front of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis' downtown. Based on U.S. Geological Service records, Flood 2002 ranked as 14th in recorded history in St. Louis. In the words of Readiness Branch Chief Jake Scanlon,

“It was about a normal flood.” The 2002 flood did not begin with a storied massive snow pack melt in the upper Mississippi and Missouri River valleys. Rather, it began in April with the successive series of lengthy rainstorms that swept through the region, one after another. Often the rain was locally intense, resulting in spot flooding of tributaries feeding the region's major waterways. In many cases these same localized rains passed around elements of the region's and District's flood damage

reduction system, resulting in almost immediate run-off.

The quick review at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district office in St. Louis; “The flood damage reduction system worked. It protected people, saved property and sustained transportation – just like it was supposed to,” according to St. Louis District river engineer, Dave Busse.

The initial assessment of flood damage reduction experts was that region wide, the federal flood damage reduction system of levees and

**Continued on page 3**



## Commander's Perspective



It has truly been an honor and a privilege for me to serve as your commander for the last three years. I will always look back on my time with the St Louis District with fond memories and immense pride. You all have made the St Louis District the best District in the Corps of Engineers and I know you will continue to excel in the future. You will always hold a place in my heart. God bless you. Essayons!

Col Morrow



## In This Issue:

Flood Fight 2002 ..... Page 3

MAJ Bigelow receives  
de Fleury Medal ..... Page 5

The de Fleury Medal ..... Page 5

Around the District ..... Page 7

Way I Remember it ..... Page 8

Dispute Resolution ..... Page 9

New EEO Chief ..... Page 9

New Deputy Commander  
..... Page 13

Employee of the Month  
..... Page 14

Retiree's Corner ..... Page 15

Army Birthday ..... Back Cover



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Louis District®

*ESPRIT* is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published monthly, by contract, in 1450 copies, by the Public Affairs Office, US Army Engineer District, St. Louis. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

District Commander ----- Michael R. Morrow

Chief, Public Affairs ----- Alan J. Dooley

Editor, Design, Layout ----- Russell A. Elliott

Address mail to: US Army Engineer District, St. Louis, ATTN:  
CEMVS-PA, 1222 Spruce, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833,  
Phone (314) 331-8095





## Flood Fight 2000 from page 1

reservoir lakes, worked as advertised. It saved property it was designed to protect and sustained important navigation capabilities on all but the Illinois River. Busse noted that without the system the river stage at St. Louis would have been two or more feet higher, which in turn, would have probably suspended navigation on the Mississippi River at St. Louis.

Throughout the region at our multi-purpose reservoirs, cooperative agreements hammered out months and years before served well to ensure cooperation and to limit damage. With the high-water conditions came contention, with people upstream wanting excess water discharged downstream and those downstream often asking that water be released at a moderate rate so it would cause them fewer problems. While it was seldom possible to satisfy everyone, the key to success was consultation, communication and consistency. A continuous effort to bring affected groups to the table to share problems and priorities and to seek common ground for best solutions had built consensus for problem solving.

### At the District Headquarters

The District's Water Control Office and Emergency Operations Center took on the mission of monitoring water levels and readiness preparations, shifting to extended hour operations as necessary early in the month. Phone calls and face-to-face meetings with levee district representatives, state, county and municipal authorities took place daily. As waters rose higher, authorities from other federal agencies joined the watch. It was essential that everyone stayed in agreement concerning steps to be taken at each point. This allowed both collective efforts and local decisions – such as when to close flood structures or roads – to be made most effectively.

Some damage was reduced before it could happen by property buyouts that followed the 1993 flood. Many

people most severely affected then took federal offers to permanently leave their homes and relocate to safer locations outside the floodplain. Elsewhere, at St. Genevieve and Cape Girardeau in Missouri, newly completed levees protected formerly flood-prone property, leaving it safe and dry.

In the end, the heroes of the flood fight of 2002 worked in several groups throughout the District, coordinating their efforts to succeed.

In downtown St. Louis, Water Control personnel monitored the volumes of data pouring in from river gages and observation reports as well as weather predictions from the National Weather Service. Working late and sometimes around the clock, they labored to predict the exact effects of flood stages throughout the region. "What if?" was the constant question as they sought to stay ahead of nature's ravages. Each fraction of an inch of rain – depending on where it fell, and whether or not it would run into reservoir lakes – had definite effects. The Weather Service made predictions. The Water Control experts translated them into potential consequences and in turn into countermeasures.

They also consulted Engineer Corps counterparts up and down stream from St. Louis. There were discussions of how regions upstream could hold water until after the crests here, and how St. Louis assets could help lessen damage and danger downstream.

Next door in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), personnel manned phones and directed field personnel to inspect critical structures and to consult with local authorities for their observations and ideas. Local public works officials called in for analyses of what each increase in flood stage meant to their communities, for technical assistance and to request materials and equipment – sand bags and pumps. Corps headquarters personnel who are assigned to the field during floods and are

familiar with specific parts of the levee system – met with local authorities they already knew well from previous flood exercises and levee inspection tours.

Both centers fielded calls that ebbed and flowed with the rainfall from, government officials, business owners and individual homeowners. Some wanted general data, while others wanted advice on their personal situation.

### In the Field

Commercial navigation continued through the four Mississippi River locks in the District. The river rose to stages at which closing one or more was seriously considered to protect both equipment and safety. But in the end, none were closed and navigation continued. Only the lock at the Kaskaskia River confluence with the Mississippi was closed due to high water.



The Illinois River, with its lower reaches in the District, saw its operations suspended by the U.S. Coast Guard for several days for safety reasons and to avoid levee damage.

The five District lakes – two in Missouri and three in Illinois – played pivotal roles in the flood fight, capturing great quantities of rain runoff and holding it behind dams. Without these lakes and dams these waters would have run directly into streams and rivers, perhaps inundating numerous areas of the District and regions to the south. In all cases, high water at the lakes has resulted in a loss of recreation facilities. While hard work is return-



ing many to use every day, in some cases specific facilities may remain out of service virtually throughout the summer season of 2002.

[Note: the following section on the District's lakes refers to lake heights in terms of the NGVD – or the National Geodetic Vertical Datum. Before 1929 such measurements were referenced to “mean sea level.” But the elevations of the world's oceans vary over a period of time and with location, for example, from the east to west coasts and the Gulf of Mexico. Therefore, a national standard – the NGVD – was established using ocean measurements over a period of time at more than two dozen locations, which the Corps and others use today to describe elevations of land and water features.]

#### **Lake Shelbyville, Illinois**

– Lake Shelbyville reached 618.01 feet NGVD on May 18, the second highest such measurement ever. It might have been even higher, but in cooperation with people throughout the watershed the Corps had been



releasing more water than normal before the flood. During an especially severe storm on May 12, the lake project's offices lost phone service, which is not slated for restoration until the end of June or early July. A disturbing rumor swept the region during the high water – one with absolutely no truth to it – that the dam impounding the lake had a dangerous crack in it. There never was and is not now any such problem or danger in the Lake Shelbyville Dam.

#### **Carlyle Lake, Illinois**

– Carlyle Lake, completed in 1967, saw a new record height set as it rose



to 459.8 feet NGVD. In so doing, the normally 26,000-acre lake grew to more than 50,00 acres. Beaches, day-use areas and campsites were virtually all submerged and project officials reported the damage and loss of recreation facilities might remain throughout the 2002 recreation season. While there was no damage to flood-control structures, some rock on the upstream side of the lake's dam was washed away by wave action during a particularly severe storm and will have to be replaced this summer. Some work that arose as a result of the 1995 flood was only being completed this year and reviewing this year's event with interests up and down stream has helped identify the need consider plans for more high-water recreation facilities for the future.

#### **Rend Lake, Illinois**

–Rend Lake, which empties into the Big Muddy River, fared relatively well in this year's flood, actually gaining many campers and recreation seekers who had reservations and plans at Carlyle Lake, which was more severely impacted. The southeastern most lake in the District reached 412.0 feet NGVD on the night of May 15 and floodwaters flowed over the 410-foot height spillway there for approximately two weeks. The 18,900-acre lake (at summer pool) experienced only few closures, including a short, one-week period during which its two beaches were unusable.

#### **Mark Twain Lake, Missouri**

– On May 16, Mark Twain Lake reached its third highest elevation since its opening, at 633.9 feet NGVD. Due to high pool elevation, most public facilities, including boat ramps, beaches and day use areas were closed. Numerous nearby county and State roads were also covered by the high water, either preventing or making access difficult to many homes and properties. Four high water boat ramps were put into use to permit boating recreation to continue during the high water. The amount of floating and submerged debris – much of it remaining from the floods of 1993 and 1995 – is extensive and will require heightened attention by boaters. In addition, the high lake elevation may have a detrimental effect on the fish spawn for the 2002 season.

#### **Wappapello Lake, Missouri**

Wappapello Lake reached its second highest ever at 395.13 feet NGVD. That height was critical as the emergency spillway of the dam is 394.74 feet. Unfettered at that



height, water would have poured over the emergency spillway and either damaged or destroyed a section of Highway T and critical communications infrastructure running alongside that major thoroughfare. But after close consultation with District Water Control personnel, during which Joan Stemler was credited with absolutely precise predictions, the bold decision was made to add one foot of sand bags to the top of the spillway. With





water inching up, it stopped with only inches to go. Ironically, while the lake



suffered temporary loss and damage to recreation facilities, the flood itself became a tourist event with hundreds of local citizens coming out to see the water and the sand bagging effort. Lake project officials credit close

cooperation between area agencies, law enforcement organizations and others for the successful effort to minimize impact. Constant communication – by park rangers who extended hours at the visitors center as well as a daily news fliers that went out to businesses and public places helped ensure a steady flow of factual information to the public.

This fight against Flood 2002 has spanned several divisions and districts, with everyone consulting and working to achieve the maximum good.

This has extended in detail into the various drainage areas within the district as Corps personnel have

facilitated contacts and meetings between people living and working there, first to tell of their wishes, then to hear others' needs and finally to arrive at common-purpose decisions. The Flood of 2002 has challenged District Corps Personnel with a combination of record, near-record and less substantial events. But as before, in 1973, 1993 and 1995, the results have been substantial savings of property and reduction of personal impacts. Once again, the system – and the people who are part of it – has worked as it was designed to work. The story of the Flood of 2002 is a success story.

## A Proud Tradition Continues!



MAJ Bigelow receives his medal from Chief of Engineers, LTG Robert Flowers.

*Learn more about this special honor in the story below*



MAJ Benjamin Bigelow is the latest St. Louis District recipient of the prestigious de Fleury medal.

### The de Fleury Medal

As the Corps of Engineers implemented the US Army Regimental System, the senior engineer leadership sought a method for the Corps of Engineers to honor those individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army Engineering.

The Army Regimental System was developed to emphasize the history, customs, and traditions of the Corps;

so MG Daniel R. Schroeder, then Commanding General of Fort Leonard Wood and Engineer School Commandant, wanted an award that would tie in with the beginnings of the nation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

In 1777, a French Engineer volunteered to serve with the American Army in its fight for independence from Britain. Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury was born in St. Hippolyte, France in 1749; was trained as an

engineer; and served in the French Army during the Corsican Campaign.

The Continental Congress appointed de Fleury a captain of engineers, and he quickly proved himself. Wounded at the battles of Fort Mifflin and Brandywine (where his horse was shot out from under him), he soon became Lt. Col. de Fleury.

But it was in the desperate battle at Stony Point, New York in 1779, that



de Fleury's courage, under fire, won him the accolades of Congress.

In June of 1779, two small American forts were being established on the Hudson River at Stony Point and Verplanck's Point, about 30 miles from Manhattan Island. A large British force easily captured both sites. The enemy began building a strong defensive perimeter around Stony Point. The Point was actually a peninsula jutting nearly half a mile into the Hudson, tipped with rocky

there was no hope of recapture. A recently formed light infantry corps led by the daring Brigadier General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, consisted of hand picked combat veterans. The group was made up of four regiments of about 340 men each. COL Christian "Old Denmark" Febiger headed the 1st Regiment with de Fleury as second in command.

On July 15th, the corps, except for a small diversionary force, unloaded weapons and turned in their ammuni-

fighting force.

So it was that on 1 October 1779, de Fleury stood before the Continental Congress to be praised for his valor at Stony Point by the men who had penned the Declaration of Independence and would later sign the Constitution. For his intrepid behavior, the Continental Congress awarded a medal struck in his honor.

The Engineer Regiment adopted the de Fleury Medal as an award because of the values demonstrated by the man for whom it was struck - values of special meaning to Engineer Soldiers. It is understood that the de Fleury Medal was the first Congressional Medal struck, if not the first medal authorized.

On the obverse of the medal is the Latin inscription meaning: "A MEMORIAL AND REWARD FOR COURAGE AND BOLDNESS". In the center appears the image of a helmeted soldier standing amidst the ruins of a fort, holding in his right hand an unsheathed sword, and in his left the staff of the enemy's flag, which he tramples underfoot.

On the reverse, again in Latin: "FORTIFICATIONS, MARSHES, ENEMIES OVERCOME". In the center the fortress at Stony Point is depicted with both turrets and a flag flying. At the base of the hill are two shore batteries, one of which is firing at one of six vessels on the Hudson River- Beneath the fort is the legend: "STONY POINT CARRIED BY STORM, JULY 15, 1779".

Presentation of the de Fleury Medal, to those individuals meeting established criteria, was begun in 1989. Soldiers and civilians, active and retired, from enlisted soldiers to Generals to the Chief of Staff of the French Army proudly wear the de Fleury Medal. The de Fleury award program is administered by the Army Engineer Association for the US Army Corps of Engineers. The medal dies are controlled by the United States Mint which is responsible for striking the medals.



Obverse



Reverse

craggs which shot up 150 feet above the river. On the landward side was swamp which flooded at high tide, sinking a causeway running to the shore under two feet of water and making the Point an island.

The formidable defense included several batteries partially connected by trenches, log and earth redoubts around the main fort, and a double abatis. It was called "Little Gibraltar".

GEN George Washington was disturbed by the capture of the two forts. British occupation gave them control of a vital segment of the river and rerouted American communications, supplies, and troops moving between New England and the other colonies. Worse, GEN Washington was convinced the enemy was preparing to strike West Point, less than 15 miles upriver.

American reinforcements were quickly moved into position north of Stony Point, but Washington thought

tion. Secrecy was so tight the troops did not know they were going to attempt to recapture Stony Point. For such a risky assault, surprise was vital; and the attack was to take place in total darkness. Fixed bayonets and hand-to-hand combat were the orders of the day. Wayne's column had no sooner sloshed into the waist-deep water before a British picket sent up an alarm. During the fierce fighting, Wayne and Febiger both suffered stunning head wounds.

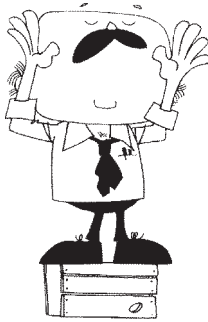
The Continentals scrambled up the rocky slope with de Fleury in the lead. First over the wall, de Fleury was followed by a wave of American bayonets. Rushing to the flag pole, de Fleury cut the British colors from their staff.

In addition to the recapture of Stony Point, the defeat of the British fired the American's determination and lifted their morale. It showed the enemy that the colonies had an able





## Around the District



## Congratulations

Shane Peltis, Park Ranger at Carlyle Lake was the sole recipient of the Federal Executive Board's Excellence in Government Service Award in the category of Law Enforcement! Shane competed for this award with employees throughout the Federal community in and around the St. Louis area.



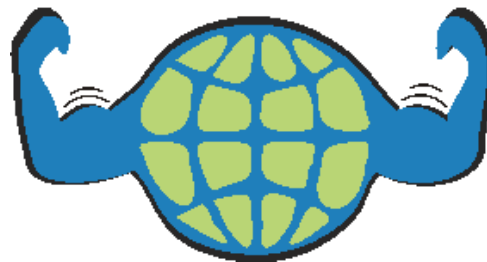
Shane is the Carlyle Lake program ranger for visitor assistance. His nomination indicates that he has been the person most responsible for the healthy relationship between the Corps and local authorities. His work on cooperative agreements with the Clinton County Sheriff's Department and the Randolph County Sheriff's Department assured not only visitors, but also rangers on duty an added sense of security. He works hard to exchange information, share training opportunities, and communicate with local law enforcement agencies to maintain an optimum relationship.



## Celebrate the Earth Day:

The Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia Navigation Project hosted their six annual, Celebrate the Earth Day on 26 April in the Dam West Recreation Area. Approximately 1625 students from Clinton, Washington, Fayette and Bond County schools ranging from pre-school thru eighth grade attended. Medstar Ambulance, Inc. and the Clinton County Sheriff assisted for the safety of the students. There was 24 different speakers: World Bird Sanctu-

ary, St. Louis Zoo, Butterfly House, Ronald McDonald House, St. Louis Herpetology Society and several speakers from our partners the IL Department of Natural Resources, District personnel, volunteers and Carlyle Lake Park Rangers. Each student attended 5 environmental presentations and hands on activities by professionals in the environmental field. The purpose is to encourage interest in the environment and stewardship of our natural resources.



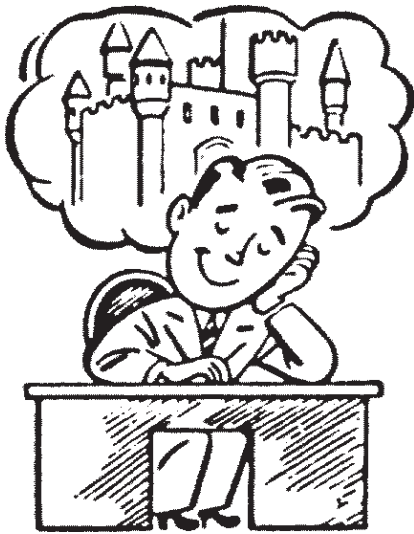
Shane is always willing, ready and well-prepared to train, speak or attend special events. He recently assisted the Critical Incident Response Team with coordination of an incident simulation training session. He coordinated a boat operation/water safety/water rescue training session with the local Sheriff's Department and the Conservation Police. Shane's

focus is on people. He has an exceptional reputation for being available to all of the Carlyle rangers for assistance with any problem they may encounter. His coordination and communication skills have resulted in increased public safety and service. He has made a diverse, positive impact on the project and in the community.



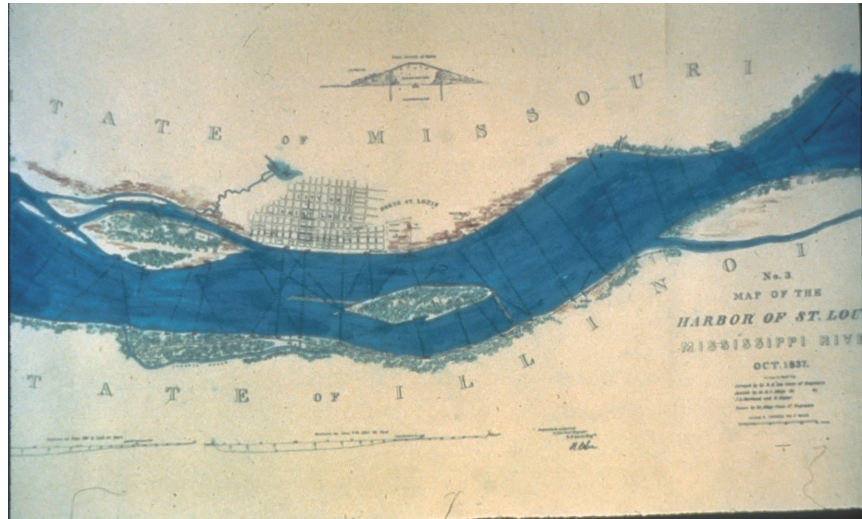
## The Way I Remember It

by Claude Strauser



I saw an interesting article in the January 2002 Esprit. The front page had a story about the “Blackberry” hand held wireless email computer. I have been using the Blackberry (as a test - they figure if I can use it, anyone can). It is a very convenient way to keep in touch, especially when on TDY.

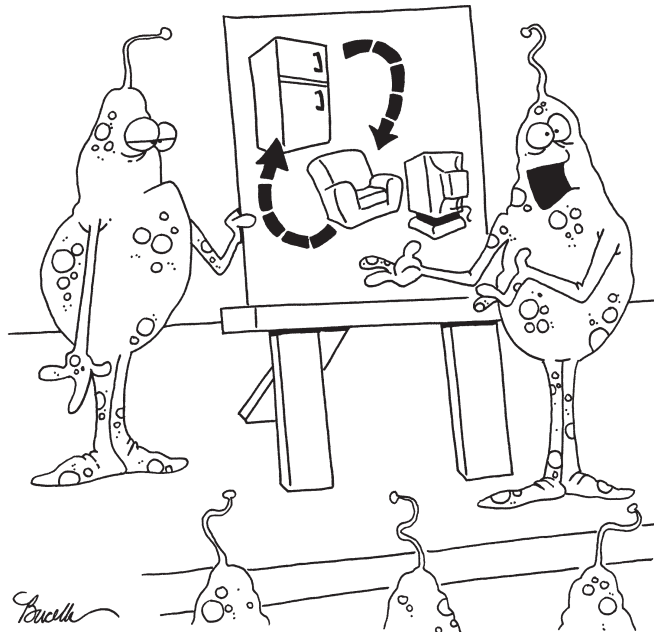
This article made me think about communications when I began work with the St. Louis District. When I was a Junior Engineer I spent some time with the survey crews on the Mississippi River. Creating a hydrographic survey was quite a task. One of the most difficult tasks was communicating from one bankline to another and between the boat and the instrument man on the bankline. Usually there were two men on shore, each with alidades “cutting in” the vessel as it moved back and forth across the river. They would plot the location of the vessel on a piece of vellum placed on a board. The tripod was located over a control point located on the riverbank. Before radios (walkie talkies), surveyors used hand signals to convey instructions and to convey numbers. Normally a willow limb was cut with a machete and a white rag was tied on one end.



The surveyor would use different hand signals to convey messages and numbers. For example, using the right hand, the number one (1) would be a flag held in the one o'clock position. The number two (2) would be in the three o'clock position. The number four (4) would be in the left hand at the one o'clock position. The number seven (7) would be the left hand held in the one o'clock position and the right hand in the eleven o'clock position. This method was

primitive but effective.

I used to marvel at the skill and the mastery of the survey crews as they created hydrographic surveys (which were actually works of engineering art). I still have some of these surveys in my historical files and I greatly appreciate the care and the exactness exhibited by the early river surveyors. As I remember it, they were all hard working, very dedicated Corps employees.



“And here to explain his study on the migration patters of earthlings....”





## Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (Adr)

ADR is a term used to describe a variety of methods to resolve conflicts with a neutral third party. The COE has selected mediation as the ADR method to be used to resolve employment related disputes. Mediation is the process in which an impartial third party facilitates the resolution of a dispute by promoting voluntary agreement by both parties. A mediator provides communication, promotes understanding, and seeks creative problem solving to enable the parties to reach their own agreement. The mediator has no decision-making authority. They are neutral third parties who have no interest in the outcome. Their role is to strictly help the parties resolve the issue/dispute.

Participants include Corps employees, applicants for employment and

former employees who initiate a timely precomplaint on matters arising during their employment with the Corps. Participation is strictly voluntary. You have the right to representation through the complaint process, including during ADR.



The ADR process is initiated when the EEO counselor starts the counseling inquiry as usual, and then provides information on the COE ADR

program along with the rights and responsibilities memorandum.

If mediation is chosen, a mediator will make procedural suggestions in regard to how parties can reach an agreement. Occasionally, a mediator may suggest some substantive options as a means of encouraging the parties to expand the range of possible resolutions under consideration.

So why mediation? Mediation allows the parties to resolve disputes themselves, and encourages open communication. It utilizes an impartial third party to assist the involved parties in resolving the conflict. It is an efficient process that saves time and money, and mediation is fair. It also improves working relationships. The mediation process is strictly confidential. Mediation can also avoid lengthy and unnecessary litigation.

If you have any questions in regard to ADR, please contact the EEO Officer on 331-8060.

## New EEO Takes on Duties



Catherine Cummings

The St. Louis District welcomed new Equal Employment Opportunity Officer Catherine Cummings in May. Cummings comes to the District from

a 10 year stint in the U.S. Air Force. There she served in a variety of assignments including a ballistic missile launch officer and chief of Equal Opportunity at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota.

Cummings has set as her first goal, getting EEO and its issues out of the downtown District building and out into the field. "I intend to get out of the office to meet people and put a face on EEO," she explains.

"Nobody's going to have to come to the District office to meet us." I'd much prefer to get involved in situations before they result in complaints that require me to become engaged in a formal sense," she offers. She emphasizes that EEO is more than a program simply to prevent and if necessary, resolve complaints. "We sponsor some excellent Special Emphasis programs. I want to work

on ways to foster better participation. I know people are working hard here in the District. But those who have made the time to take part in some of our past programs have found them informative and, even more important, useful in gaining a better understanding of those around them. I'm wide open to ideas," she adds.

"We're also seeking to add more EEO counselors to our program. If anyone is interested in this, I'd like to meet them to tell them what would be involved. There is some great training available," she notes.

It's a tremendous change in environment from Minot, where summer can be missed if you badly time your vacation, to the heat and humidity of the St. Louis area, but Cummings and her husband Toby, and their dog and cat are setting in to their new home in Waterloo, Illinois.



## Rend Lake

### Rend Lake's Water Safety Luau

Some 2,000 people put on their best beach attire and headed to Rend Lake for an exciting Hawaiian adventure June 9, 2002 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosted the 10th Annual Rend Lake Summer Beach Blast, featuring a Hawaiian Island theme. The event took place at Rend Lake's South Sandusky Beach.

The Beach Blast was a great opportunity for the whole family to learn about water safety and enjoy a relaxing day at the beach. This year's event included a mock rescue demonstration, sand sculpture contest, PFD Fashion Show, King Kamehameha boat regatta, booths with information available, food and plenty of Hawaiian atmosphere.

Upon arrival participants picked up a "Surfing Passport." This "Passport" had a list of the safety activities available during the day. Each station combined a different water safety skill or message with a fun activity. Participants completed each station and had their "Passport" punched. At completion of all stations, participants turned in their completed "Surfing Passports" for a grand prize drawing for water safety equipment.

A sand Sculpture contest was held, with four-person teams competing in age groups. A King Kamehameha "racing sloop" contest was also conducted, with participant building their boats from materials provided by Park Rangers. A "regatta" rounded out that event.

The highlight of the Beach Blast was a mock lake rescue performed by the Rend Lake Park Rangers, Rend Lake Search and Rescue Association, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the AirEvac helicopter team. The team performed a diver rescue to of a mock victim, put him

into a boat, rushed him to shore and loaded him onto a waiting AirEvac helicopter. The helicopter then took off to transport the "victim". Following the demonstration, the helo and team returned to the beach area to allow visitors to view the inside of the helicopter and to answer questions about the AirEvac team.

The day ended with the Benton Rangler Girls presenting a "PFD - or Personal Flotation Device - Fashion Show", modeling the latest in PFDs, or lifejackets.

### Mother Nature Celebrates Earth Day

*By Park Ranger Tim Bischoff*

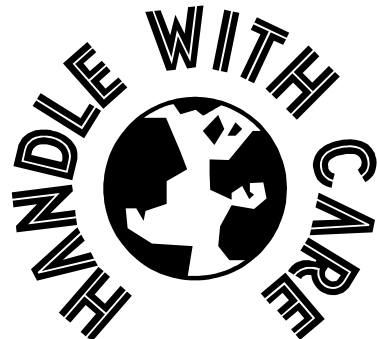
The morning started off with a wonderful surprise! As I drove into the Rend Lake Visitor Center at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2002, all tents were still standing where I had left them the afternoon before. The temperature had dropped drastically and rain threatened, but everything was in place for another Rend Lake Earth Day Celebration. Even though bad weather on Thursday prevented many from attending, participants and presenters who made it "went with the flow" regardless of the weather. Friday, on the other hand, dawned beautifully and many more came the Earth Day Celebration.

Each year, the staff at Rend Lake works for over 6 months to prepare for this event. One of the largest Earth Days in the state, this event provides an opportunity for over 4,000 students from all over Southern Illinois to get outside and learn about their environment. The participants attend five programs on different topics. These included nature hikes, solar energy, reptiles, wetlands, endangered species, agriculture, and other subjects

The Rend Lake Earth Day Celebration is not a one-person show. As the event coordinator, the ultimate success or failure rested upon my shoulders. But I could not plan this event without the help of about 100 people.

That team all Rend Lake employees, personnel from other lake projects and the St. Louis District Office, volunteer and paid presenters, local student volunteers, contractors, and other agencies at Rend Lake.

Presenters from other projects included Al Lookofsky, Larry Gutzler, and Ken Pierson from Shelbyville Lake; Rachel "Rosie" Lemons from Wappapello Lake; Jackie Arbieter from Information Management; and Craig Litteken and Mike Daily from Regulatory. Other agencies and groups included the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resource, Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, University of Illinois Extension, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, St. Louis Science Center, Carbondale Science Center, Illinois EPA, World Bird Sanctuary, Natural History Education Company, local Health Departments, Rend Lake Conservancy District, Soils and Water Conservation Districts from 5 counties, and several local environmental groups and people willing to donate time to educate students about their surroundings. It was these people that made the Rend Lake Earth Day 2002 Celebration a wonderful success.







## Lake Shelbyville



Shelbyville Annual Kid's Fishing Tournament Winners.

Lake Shelbyville, June 11, 2002- The weather was wonderful for the 2002 Annual Kid's Fishing Tournament sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Shelbyville. The tournament was held on Saturday, June 8th on the west side of Woods Lake. Twenty-six young anglers and their families attended the Kid's Fishing Tournament and competed for plaques in the categories of First Fish, Last Fish, Biggest Fish, Smallest Fish, and Most Fish.

The participants enjoyed the afternoon of friendly fishing competition, and eighty-three fish were caught in total. The following awards were presented:

First Fish: Kyle Ramseyer of Champaign with a 7 in. Crappie  
Last Fish: Lee Neese of Shelbyville with a 5.75 in. Bluegill  
Biggest Fish: Matt Carol of Shelbyville with an 11.5 in. Channel Catfish  
Smallest Fish: Cierra Hartman of Windsor with a 4 in. Bass  
Most Fish: Lee Neese of Shelbyville with 16 fish total

Other participants who caught fish include Austin Anglin, Levi Anglin, Brittany Foreman, Ashley Fullman, Briare Hinton, Derek Hinton, Ryan Kneller, Ryan Miller, Jake Neese, Tisha Niebrugge, Jonathan Schultz, Chrystal Tanner, and Keah Tanner.

At the close of the tournament, a drawing was held for prizes such as fishing poles, bait, lures, tackle boxes, hats, etc. Prizes were generously donated by the following local businesses:

Pana: *Wal-mart*  
Shelbyville: *Joseph's Landing, Klausers Marine, Alco, Gregory Resort, Lithia Springs Marina, Ace Hardware*  
Findlay: *Leprechaun Landing, Findlay Marina, Wooters Sports Shop*  
Sullivan: *Marv & Kathy's Bait and Tackle Shop, Howy's, Sullivan Sport Shop, D & M.*



Lake Shelbyville has been giving up some huge fish this year, beginning with an Illinois State record Muskie this spring.

On June 9, 2002, young angler Sounthone Haksasila got the thrill of catching another of the lake's giants when he pulled in a flathead catfish that tipped the scales at more than 50 pounds. Haksasila may be young, but he must be an experienced angler, as indicated by the fact that he reeled the fish in on a 6-pound test line.





## Lock 24

Some days you have good luck. Some days you have not-so-good luck. But occasionally - just once in awhile - you have really great luck.

Earl Traynor knows all about really great luck, because it happened to him about four years ago, in October 1998.

Traynor, a shift leader at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Locks and Dam 24 in Clarksville, MO, remembers that day when he was in Trost Auto Parts Store in Louisiana, MO picking up parts for his 1954 Chevrolet truck.

"A young man approached me," Traynor reports. "He'd seen my old truck and asked me if I knew where his dad could sell a 1958 Chevrolet Apache Truck. He said his grandfather and grandmother had passed away and left the old truck in a barn. He said it needed a little work, but it had been started periodically and could be driven."

Traynor could see the truck in his mind - rusted, covered with a half-inch of dust and bird dung, resting on its rims and settling into the dirt floor of a dilapidated barn. And of course, it wouldn't start when he'd get there.

"Grandpa bought it new in 1958 — \$1725 at the Hi-Way Garage in Bolling Green," the young man went on.

So Traynor got directions to the farm, and after consulting with his wife Barb - who wasn't too pleased at the prospect of another old truck sitting in the yard - the two drove to look at it.

"We couldn't believe the shape it was in. It was in great shape. Oh, the original orange paint was faded and the tires were low, but it had the original interior and it still does," Traynor reminisced. "It had a little rust at the lower cab corners too - typical for Chevys back then. But that was repairable."

"How much do you want for it," he asked. "Would you give us \$500 for it? We're selling the farm," the boy replied. Traynor quickly agreed and the deal was sealed with a handshake.

"I brought my tools - just in case. Barb and I worked for three hours and aired up the tires. Then I drove it part way home. We aired up the tires again.



Earl Traynor and his 1958 Chevy Apache

And I drove some more. And we aired up the tires again," Traynor said laughing. The tires had dry rot.

Over the following days and weeks Traynor poured his spare time into the Apache. He added new tires. Next came brake shoes, wheel cylinders, then axle seals, hoses and gaskets. And finally it was ready to be inspected.

It failed.

In 1998, the inspector informed Earl, it needed a rear bumper. That was optional when the truck was new 50 years earlier. "So I enlisted the help my daughter's friend who was a welder and we made a rear bumper for it."

It still looked pretty ugly though, so Earl and Barb, after discussing colors, selected a new color to replace the original paint - a beautiful azure blue this time around. Earl was able to enlist the help of the automotive repair shop at nearby Pike-Lincoln Vocational and Technical School to do the bodywork and then to apply a highly professional paint job. They did beautiful work, as can be attested to the number of people who try to buy the old Apache every time Earl parks it somewhere and by the number of towboat captains who try to finagle the truck from him when they see it while locking through.

It hasn't been a non-stop joy driving and maintaining the truck though. "I bought a set of chrome hub caps for it - 'baby moons' - and one day on my way to work, I lost one," Earl remembers. "We live 2.5 miles from the Locks and we walked and drove every inch of the highway from home to work. We finally found it lying down an embank-

ment near a railroad track. I was really lucky. They cost a pretty penny."

Today the '58 Apache appears in parades and at other events. And oh yes, Earl drives it to and from work every day.

Like all good automotive projects, it will probably never be finished. "Barb got me a new AM-FM radio with a cassette player for it for Christmas. It slides right into the original opening," Earl comments with a grin.

It had a little over 117,000 miles on it when Earl and Barb purchased their "new" truck. And 6,000 miles later most of it is still original: the original seats and headliner, 235 cubic inch six-cylinder engine, column stick shift and kick starter on the floor are all as they were nearly half a century ago. The original owners manual and title are still in the glove box.

The '58 Apache was a 50th anniversary model for General Motors. "I expect to be driving it in 2008 when the General's a century old," Earl affirms. "This is my truck, one that I can work on and look cool with my wife Barb at my side."

Will this be Earl's last truck project? Earl reports, "There's this '61 Ford F-150 I know about... But you know, Barb's not in favor of doing this again, and I've got my priorities straight, so I guess we won't be doing that one."

It's been \$2,250... total, two families plus some parts and a lot of love for nearly a half century of transportation and fun. Yes, that warm fall day nearly four years ago was a very good day, indeed.





### New Deputy is Familiar Face in District

St. Louis Deputy District Engineer, Major Joe Tyron, may be new to his seat in the front office, but he's no stranger to the District. Tyron served for more than a year in Project Management before taking over his new duties from Major Ben Bigelow. He is a Tucson, AZ native. Before coming to the district he served in a variety of engineering troop assignments in several locations in the U.S. as well as overseas in Korea and Haiti. He is no stranger to tough assignments having served as both a mechanized and airborne engineer units worldwide.

"It's a great time to be in the District and assigned to the Corps. We have great leadership at the top" Tyron says enthusiastically. He says that he is coming to this job stressing continuity of operations and staying on the direction set for by senior leaders in the division. "I'm sure there will be changes as we go along. We are getting a new Commander soon, and I'm looking forward to working with COL Williams again (COL Williams and MAJ Tyron previously served together in the 4th Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson Colorado). There are the normal and inevitable changes throughout the Corps that will affect us all but we will endure change," he reports.

Tyron, who sees himself in the role of a mentor, coach and teacher asks people to simplify problems as they seek to solve them. "Usually things aren't as complicated as we may make them at first, and when they are reduced to basic elements, answers become easier to arrive at."

The Major also stresses dignity and respect for each other, for District customers and the public. "We've got to be creative to solve problems for our customers, its never business as usual in a learning organization," he says.

Major Tyron is fond of saying, "Everyone's wallet photo should look

like the organizational 8x10." What this means is that each employee needs to understand the organization's mission and their individual role in achieving it. Their "picture" should be part of the larger image, not a stand-alone piece of it.

"It's what we in the military call situational awareness - knowing where you are in the bigger picture and how you must contribute to get the job done," he says. "We have to be aware and considerate of what our customers, stakeholders and the public think. We all should do our part to market what the United States Army Corps of Engineers is all about, serving the Nation."

His style calls for him to be on the move. "I like face-to-face contact, it's much harder to miss the meaning and ultimately most people enjoy interaction. Even though I'm a supporter of technology, I think there is tremendous intrinsic value in personal contact versus a string of e-mails," he tells.

Major Tyron and his wife Angela, a native of Hillsboro, MO, reside south of St. Louis, so he's waiting eagerly for work on Interstate 55 to be completed. "Then I'll have a 35 minute commute," he laughs. The Tyrons have two children, a son and a daughter, both in elementary school.

### The only safe tan: The one you apply to your skin

Using sun lamps or tanning beds significantly increases the risk of skin cancer, according to a new study reported in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

It has already been proved that accelerated tanning causes melanoma, the least common but most often fatal type of skin cancer. These new studies show that the risk of the more common skin cancers, squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma, are significantly increased as well. Those who reported having ever used

artificial tanning devices were 2.5 times as likely as nonusers to develop these types of skin cancer.

The study also showed that the younger people were when they started using a tanning device, the more likely they were to develop skin cancer. Those who used the devices before age 20 were 3.6 times as likely to develop squamous cell carcinoma.

The only type of skin tanning that is considered safe comes from a bottle or a tube. Many cosmetic tanning preparations are available,

and they provide an attractive tan without the time or risk involved in exposing the skin to the sun or to a tanning device.





## Employee of the Month



District Team,

I am happy to announce Ms. Jean Kuethe from the Resource Management Office as the May St. Louis District employee of the month. Ms Kuethe is recognized for her exceptional guidance and commitment given in support of the implementation of the Logistics Supply Management Inventory System. Her dedication to "getting the job done" for her cooperation and guidance in solving the problems plaguing the Inventory Management System here in the District office. She worked tirelessly with the Logistics Management team to get the system up and running in a timely manner. She has demonstrated a strong and professional customer service "can-do" attitude with her dedication to detail and on-going initiative to cultivate an understanding of the task. Without her assistance, the Inventory Management System might still be quagmired in a labyrinth of questions. Jean is a great example of how the district staff builds teams and assists internal customers.

Congratulations, Jean! Keep up the good work.



## Major Benjamin Bigelow Departs to Fort Bragg

Major Benjamin Bigelow completed three years as the District Deputy in May, 2002 and was honored with both the Army Meritorious Service Medal and the de Fluery medal for his service to professional military engineering, the District and the Corps.

Bigelow's popularity was amply reinforced by the turnout at a formal farewell ceremony, followed by a desert and beverage spread that resulted in a large number of broken diets among the more than 200 District employees and friends who gathered to send him off.

## Attend Our Triple Christening June 27<sup>th</sup>

By Paul Schmidt, CO-NP Service Base

It is not often a new boat is christened in the Corps of Engineers, but it is unprecedented to christen 3 new boats at the same time in the same District!

Mark your calendars and come help us celebrate this unique event on Thursday morning, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am when the newly-repowered Dredge POTTER, the new towboat GRAND TOWER and new Crane Barge FISHER are dedicated and christened at the District Service Base located at the foot of Arsenal Street.



Major Bigelow carries with him the District's love and respect as he goes on to his new engineering assignment with the XVIIIth Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



Division Engineer Brigadier General Edwin Arnold and District Commander Colonel Michael Morrow and will be in attendance along with many other District staff. Come share with us this beginning of a new era in the navigation mission for the St. Louis District while you visit with old friends and current District employees.

Due to the location of the District fleet on the river, handicapped access is limited but we wish to accommodate all our friends and former employees. If you will be attending and need assistance, please contact the Service Base at (314) 263-4156 prior to the event to coordinate individual access.





## Retiree's Corner



The retirees had a good day to have their luncheon. Unfortunately, some of the regulars were unavailable.

Lew Scheuermann was one of the regulars that was absent. Information has it that he had some minor surgery. (Minor surgery is defined as when it is on some one else.) He sent word that he is doing well. In fact he and his wife, Helen, are signed up for the Senior Olympics and they are planning to attend. Knowing Lew, they will be there, no matter what.

Charlie Denzel was planning to have lunch with John Jansen the following week and was given a file of old photos to have John look at to identify some or all of the people. The photos were given to the River Museum at Bee Tree Park and Jim Swift was attempting to have people identified before putting them on display. The photos date back to the mid 1940's and 1950's. Most of the retirees in attendance were not even of working age at that time and could not provide any information. It is hoped that the retirees Senior Member-Bob Maxwell will have a look at them and provide many of the names.

The long term care insurance was mentioned by several retirees and they wanted to know more about the program. An article in a recent edition of the *Government Executive* written by Brien Freil provided some details about the program.

The following is an extract of that article:

"Federal retirees can sign up for long-term care insurance starting July 1 according to the Office of Personnel Management. The insurance will cover nursing home stays and other types of day-to-day care for people with chronic illnesses or disabilities. OPM and Long-Term Care Partners, the contractor that will administer the program, will launch a major education campaign about the new benefit until the official open season, which will run from July 1 to December 31. People who don't know much about long-term care insurance should wait until the open season, officials said."

[The enrollee will be able to pick a daily benefit amount—the amount of money available for care per day during a chronic illness or disability—

a benefit period of either three years or five years, and a waiting period for the benefits to kick in of either 30 days or 90 days.]

"Retirees, their spouses; retirees' surviving spouses; ...must answer up to 22 questions about their medical history." [Because of these questions many may be denied coverage. No information is currently available as to the amount of annual premium involved for retirees.]

An other action that is of interest to retirees is The Good People, Good Government Act (H.R. 4580). It would raise the government's contribution to health insurance premiums in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), from an average of about 72% to 76%. (We'll try to keep you informed on these items and others as information becomes available.

### Bee-careful outside What to do when they sting you



**For everyone:** 1-Skip bright-colored clothes and perfumes so bees don't think you're a flower. 2-Avoid loose clothes that can trap an insect. 3-Wear closed shoes. Don't go barefoot. 4-Move away quietly and slowly if you encounter a bee.

**For a reaction:** Most people get an itchy red welt when stung. If you get hives, go to an emergency room.

Adults and kids who develop hives (itchy elevated patches that are red or pale), tightness in the throat and chest, difficulty breathing, or loss of consciousness may be in danger of fatal anaphylactic shock, say immunologists at the University of Texas, Houston Medical School.

At the ER, doctors will give you a shot containing adrenaline, antihistamine, and steroids that will stop the reaction.

**For an allergy:** A few weeks after the attack, see an allergist to get treatment for an allergy to insect venom.

**For an untreated allergy:** Stock "injected epinephrine kits, available by prescription, in case you have another encounter. One injection will stave off reactions for 20 to 30 minutes.





## Army Birthday 2002

For 227 years now, soldiers have defended freedom. And again today, soldiers are fighting on behalf of the American people as we prosecute the war on terrorism. So as we celebrate our Army's birthday and reflect on our great institution, a simple truth arises: There is no greater profession than the profession of arms, and no greater job than ours—serving on point for our nation. Thanks to american soldiers, freedom's light shines as a beacon throughout the world.

The army has courageously fought our country's wars and served honorably in peace for over two and a quarter centuries. We can all be justifiably proud of the army's achievements—a distinguished history of service to the Nation. From our victories in the American Revolution through the trial of our Civil War, from the trenches of World War I to the beaches of Normandy and the island battles in the Pacific of World War II, from the frozen mountains of Korea to the sweltering paddies of Vietnam, from Grenada and Panama to the sands of Kuwait and Iraq, and now on the plains and in the mountains of Afghanistan, soldiers have marched at the van of democracy and the cause of liberty.

And throughout that history of service, the key to the Army's success is our flexibility and willingness to change, to meet the world as it is—without altering the core competencies that make the army the best fighting force in the world. You are the best army in the world. As we forge ahead to gain irreversible momentum in our transformation, you will continue to be respected by allies, feared by our enemies, and honored and esteemed by the American People. Your courage, dedication to duty and selfless service to the nation are the hallmarks of the soldiers of the United States Army.

We will never be able to tell you enough how very proud we are of you, how everyone we meet offers their thanks for what you do and their prayers for your safety and well-being. So we are honored to join you in celebrating the birthday of the most powerful land force the world has ever known. Thank you for your service, for your sacrifices, and for your abiding devotion to something greater than self.

God bless each and every one of you and your families, God bless our magnificent army, and God bless America.